



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant : Samuel M. Shaolian et al.
 App. No. : 10/642,399
 Filed : August 15, 2003
 For : ARTICULATING SPINAL
FIXATION ROD AND SYSTEM
 Examiner : Unknown
 Group Art Unit : 3738

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
 marked attachments are being deposited with
 the United States Postal Service as first-class
 mail in an envelope addressed to: United States
 Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450,
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

March 16, 2004

(Date)

Rabinder N. Narula

Rabinder N. Narula, Reg. No. 53,371

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is form PTO-1449 listing 83 references. Copies of disclosed U.S. patents and/or publications are not included pursuant to PTO waiver of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) for applications filed after June 30, 2003. Copies of other references, if listed, are enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and presumably no fee is required in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). If a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the mailing date of this Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

By: Rabinder N. Narula

Rabinder N. Narula
 Registration No. 53,371
 Attorney of Record
 Customer No. 20,995
 (949) 760-0404

Dated: 3-16-03

FORM PTO-1449 O I P E INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT MAR 19 2004 (USE SEVERAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. VLINK.033A	APPLICATION NO. 10/642,399
		APPLICANT Samuel M. Shaolian et al.	
		FILING DATE August 15, 2003	GROUP 3738

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
1	2,338,159	01/1944	Appleton			
2	4,041,939	08/1977	Hall			
3	4,289,123	09/15/81	Dunn			
4	4,335,715	06/1982	Kirkley			
5	4,648,388	03/10/87	Steffee			
6	4,722,331	02/1988	Fox			
7	4,743,260	05/1988	Burton			
8	4,883,048	11/1989	Purnell et al.			
9	4,887,595	12/18/89	Heinig et al.			
10	4,920,958	05/1990	Walt et al.			
11	4,957,495	09/1990	Kluger			
12	4,998,936	03/12/91	Mehdian			
13	5,000,165	03/19/91	Watanabe			
14	5,030,220	07/09/91	Howland			
15	5,084,049	01/28/92	Asher et al.			
16	5,112,337	05/1992	Paulos et al.			
17	5,163,940	11/1992	Bourque			
18	5,171,279	12/1992	Mathews			
19	5,176,680	01/1993	Vignaud et al.			
20	5,242,443	09/1993	Kambin			
21	5,242,444	09/1993	MacMillan			
22	5,281,223	01/1994	Ray			
23	5,334,205	08/1994	Cain			
24	5,342,361	08/1994	Yaun et al.			
25	5,357,983	10/1994	Mathews			
26	5,397,363	03/14/95	Gelbarb			
27	5,474,551	12/12/95	Finn et al.			

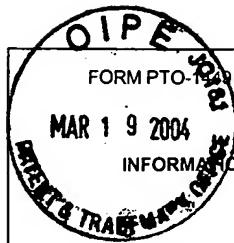
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: INITIAL IF CITATION CONSIDERED, WHETHER OR NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH MPEP 609; DRAW LINE THROUGH CITATION IF NOT IN CONFORMANCE AND NOT CONSIDERED, INCLUDE COPY OF THIS FORM WITH NEXT COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANT.	

O I P E U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE MAR 19 2004 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (USE SEVERAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)		ATTY. DOCKET NO. VLINK.033A	APPLICATION NO. 10/642,399
APPLICANT Samuel M. Shaolian et al.			
FILING DATE August 15, 2003		GROUP 3738	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
28	5,486,174	01/1996	Fournet-Fayard et al.			
29	5,496,322	03/1996	Mathews			
30	5,520,689	05/1996	Schlaper et al.			
31	5,562,661	10/06/96	Yoshimi et al.			
32	5,569,248	10/1996	Mathews			
33	5,584,887	12/1996	Kambin			
34	5,591,165	01/1997	Jackson			
35	5,591,167	01/1997	Laurain et al.			
36	5,613,971	03/1997	Lower et al.			
37	5,643,273	07/1997	Clark			
38	5,649,925	07/1997	Alacreu			
39	5,658,286	08/1997	Sava			
40	5,681,320	10/1997	McGuire			
41	5,704,937	01/1998	Martin			
42	5,728,097	03/1998	Mathews			
43	5,752,955	05/19/98	Errico			
44	5,800,435	09/1998	Errico et al.			
45	5,891,150	04/1999	Chan			
46	5,910,142	06/1999	Tatar			
47	5,938,663	08/1999	Petroto			
48	6,033,406	03/2000	Mathews			
49	6,099,528	08/2000	Saurat			
50	6,102,912	08/2000	Cazin et al.			
51	6,106,530	08/2000	Harada			
52	6,120,511	09/2000	Chan			
53	6,126,689	10/2000	Brett			
54	6,127,597	10/2000	Beyar et al.			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: INITIAL IF CITATION CONSIDERED, WHETHER OR NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH MPEP 609; DRAW LINE THROUGH CITATION IF NOT IN CONFORMANCE AND NOT CONSIDERED, INCLUDE COPY OF THIS FORM WITH NEXT COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANT.	

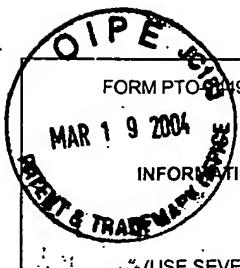


FORM PTO-1449 MAY 2001 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. VLINK.033A	APPLICATION NO. 10/642,399
APPLICANT Samuel M. Shaolian et al.		
FILING DATE August 15, 2003	GROUP 3738	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
55	6,129,763	10/2000	Chauvin et al.			
56	6,175,758	01/2001	Kambin			
57	6,187,011	02/2001	Torrie			
58	6,206,922	03/27/01	Zdeblick et al.			
59	6,226,548	05/2001	Foley et al.			
60	6,235,028	05/2001	Brumfield et al.			
61	6,296,644	10/2001	Saurat			
62	6,402,784	06/2002	Wardlaw			
63	6,530,926	03/2003	Davison			
64	6,530,929	03/2003	Justis et al.			
65	6,558,386	05/2003	Cragg			
66	6,558,390	05/2003	Craig			
67	6,582,467	06/24/03	Teitelbaum et al.			
68	2002/0022764	02/21/02	Smith et al.			
69	2002/0068975	06/06/02	Teitelbaum et al.			
70	2002/0082598	06/27/02	Teitelbaum			
71	2002/082600	06/27/02	Shaolian et al.			
72	2002/0082601 A1	06/27/02	Toyama et al.			
73	2002/0161368 A1	10/31/02	Foley et al.			
74	2003/0060826 A1	03/27/03	Foley et al.			
75	2002/0198526	06/24/03	Shaolian et al.			
76	2004/0006341	01/08/04	Shaolian et al.			
77	2004/0006344	01/08/04	Nguyen et al.			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: INITIAL IF CITATION CONSIDERED, WHETHER OR NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH MPEP 609; DRAW LINE THROUGH CITATION IF NOT IN CONFORMANCE AND NOT CONSIDERED, INCLUDE COPY OF THIS FORM WITH NEXT COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANT.	



FORM PTO-649 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. VLINK.033A	APPLICATION NO. 10/642,399
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT Samuel M. Shaolian et al.	
(USE SEVERAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)		FILING DATE August 15, 2003	GROUP 3738

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS*								
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
78		197 26 754 A 1	02/04/99	DE				
79		WO 97/30666	08/28/97	PCT				
80		WO 97/38639	10/23/97	PCT				
81		WO 99/09902	03/04/99	PCT				
82		WO 99/15097	04/01/99	PCT				

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)
83	Muller et al., "A Keyhole Approach for Endoscopically Assisted Pedicle Screw Fixation in Lumbar Spine Instability". Neurosurgery, Vol. 47, No. 1, July 2000, pages 85-96.

H:\DOCS\RNN\RNN-7994.DOC
031504

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: INITIAL IF CITATION CONSIDERED, WHETHER OR NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH MPEP 609; DRAW LINE THROUGH CITATION IF NOT IN CONFORMANCE AND NOT CONSIDERED, INCLUDE COPY OF THIS FORM WITH NEXT COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANT.	